

Fall Newsletter 2006

Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Music Therapy Students

Greetings from the 2006-2007 President!



Happy Fall!

We are so fortunate being members of such an active region... the Mid-Atlantic Region! There are so many amazing activities sponsored by our schools including advocacy bracelets, presentations at high schools, educational events, fundraisers and volunteering.

Recently Montclair State University hosted the 3rd Annual MAR Passages Conference (www.marpassages.org) Mechelle Chestnut, MA, MT-BC, and Jenny Hoi Yan Fu, MA, MT-BC, NRMT together worked as Coordinators for the exciting event held October 28, 2006. Many music therapy students, young professionals, music therapists, and advocates were able to attend enjoying the speakers and presentations.

One exciting project in progress has the goal of connecting all music therapy students in the Mid-Atlantic Region. After receiving contact lists from your school's chapter representative(s), expect an email personally to you from one of the MARAMTS Officers. We hope you will take advantage of the many schol-

arships available through our region and especially participate as new students, detailed in your "Welcome Packets." Additionally the "MARAMTS Timeline" was dispersed enabling all eighteen schools to have similar goals and initiatives.

Student representatives from many schools convened with the MARAMTS Executive Board at the annual Fall Business Meeting in Scranton, PA, September 29-30, 2006. Many thanks are deserved to MARAMTA for financially assisting students with the weekend accommodations. Numerous projects and ideas were shared including the following: an exciting fundraiser, new MARAMTS Exec. Board position for Government Relations, and improving the student website (www.mar-ama.org/marmts/maramts.htm).

Much support is needed from music therapy students for the MARAMTS Committees. The Scrapbook Committee is accumulating photos and memorabilia from all school clubs, and large events within the region. Another group, the Service Committee is planning for a greatly attended service pro-

ject at the upcoming MARAMTA Conference.

The regional conference hosted in Ocean City, Maryland, needs many students' participation and support since there are not many schools within close distance. This upcoming conference will host educational presentations, one of which will be presented by your very own MARAMTS Executive Board detailing how to present at a conference. Also there will be activities and business meetings for students with guaranteed activities and music making!!

Enjoy the remainder of your academic year and thank you for your commitment and support advocating music therapy. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Chardos

MARAMTS President

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Vice President's Report

Hello students of the MAR region!

My name is Kevin Hahn and I am the MARAMTS Vice President for the 2006-2007 school year. My role as Vice President is to serve as a liaison between the MAR professional board and the students of the region. I am here to take your suggestions, thoughts, and questions to the professionals in the MAR. So if you have any concerns about student needs, conference planning, or any other general business, please feel free to contact me at hahnk@etown.edu.

One challenge this year is for more students to get involved in presenting their research at the regional conference. In Ocean City there will be two separate

poster sessions for research projects: one for research-in-progress and one for completed projects. These sessions are being prepared to encourage students and professionals to present their findings, get feedback and ideas on projects, and practice presenting in front of others. Nearly every music therapy student completes some kind of research project at some point in their coursework, so why not present your hard work to others?

Likewise, if you haven't already done so, please seek out scholarship opportunities through MARAMTS and MAR. We have a number of scholarships available to students under the MARAMTS sec-

tion at www.mar-amta.org.

The success of our region depends on our students, so please get involved! Whether you volunteer at conference, assist in our service project, or just attend regional business meetings, your participation and productivity supports the region in doing all that we do. The MAR professionals have nothing but good things to say about our student sector and their continued financial support has helped our group be so successful... but we need your help to keep making progress as a student organization. Thanks and see you at conference!

~Kevin Hahn

2006-2007 MARAMTS Vice President

Treasurer's Report

Greetings Mid-Atlantic Region!!! I hope your semester has been wonderful. Thus far, serving as your Treasurer this year has been a pleasure. I am proud to say that our fall business meeting successfully started out the year with the approval of the budget, mail order fundraisers and a new fundraiser.

The budget underwent many changes due to budget cuts, increases in item lines and the addition of new item lines. Items that were decreased because of a surplus of funds were the president's clerical supplies and the past president's project. The scholar-

ship item line was increased to accommodate the conference fee increase.

Did you love the "Top ten reasons to be a music therapist," shirt or the colorful Music Therapy guitar picks, but missed out on getting them at conference? Well, they are both now available for purchase again! We are excited to offer you a mail-in order form. As of now, this form is only available through your chapter reps; hopefully they have mentioned it by now. We hope to get this form online as soon as possible, but talk with your chapter rep. or myself for more information so you can order last year's fundraisers with ease.

Speaking of fundraisers – drum roll please – I'm happy to announce this year's fundraiser. Do you love Music Therapy and coffee or tea? Now you can get the best of both worlds with our fundraiser for this year: Music Therapy coffee or tea travel mugs. This sleek stainless steel mug with a twist on top advocates music therapy while holding about 12 oz of coffee or tea goodness for those on the go. For a sneak peak of our mug style, check out the mail-in order form. The final product will be revealed at the Mid-Atlantic Region Conference in Ocean City. Thank you to all the chapter reps for your brainstorming and professionalism in choosing an idea in a timely manner. Most importantly, thank you a thousand times to the fundraising committee for your focus, hard work, patience, understanding, and speedy internet skills ;), that produced such a wonderful fundraiser. And to all, thank you all again and remember to bring extra money to conference to purchase a coffee or tea travel mug (or two)! See you at the beach!!!

~Tiffany Carr



**Don't forget
about our new
fundraiser that
can be found in
Ocean City 2007!**



Parliamentarian's Report

Hello All!

This is Jillian Tolman, from Immaculata University. I'm the Parliamentarian of MARAMTS this year. Let me tell you a little bit about myself. This is my second year attending IU, and I love it! I've been a pianist since I was...oh, about 5 years of age. I'm really getting into the swing of jazz. I'm the piano player in our school's jazz band, church choir, and I play for anyone who asks me to, pretty much. I'm also learning how to play the guitar. I first learned about music therapy when doing research for my high school graduation project. Now that I know more about it, I'm even more excited to get out into the field and help people. My ambition is to work with cancer patients and maybe dip into the psychiatric scenery.

Here's my status with MARAMTS. The summer meeting was fun and very informative. Seeing the officers again was a thrill. The meeting at Scranton was even more fun because I got to meet the chapter reps. I have collected club biography forms and I am working on editing and revising MARAMTS By-Laws. It's a tedious job, but I am learning so much and I have a wonderful committee to help me through the process. One of my favorite jobs is organizing this year's Swap Shop! The conference in Ocean City, MD will be a blast! My committee and I are planning on keeping it Beach-Themed. I'm getting decorations and games ready for tons of students and professionals. The sessions will contain so much information for you and they will be so much fun to attend. For those of you who

have not yet gone to a Regional Conference....GO! My first year was amazing. I met so many new students from the region. There are many different sessions that I tried to attend. When I became Parliamentarian, I had no previous official positions in my record and I haven't been an AMTA member for long. However, I am working very hard to make sure this year is filled with fun facts to get each of you on your way to a good career with many friends. If you have any suggestions or comments for me, please feel free to contact me. Let me know what I can do for you. I'm very friendly and I will assist you in any way possible. I can't wait to see all of you at OC, MD! It's gonna be great!

~Jillian Tolman

Secretary's Report

Greetings to everyone from your secretary! My name is Maryellen Fairchild for those of you who have not met me yet. I am looking forward to getting to know as many of you as possible throughout the rest of the year and at conference!

I wanted to update you on what I do as your secretary as well as the new events that have occurred this fall.

One of my duties is putting this newsletter together. I apologize the late arrival but communicating between schools is always a timely issue. I hope you enjoy the newsletter content.

Another duty of mine is to put together the contact list of all chapter representatives and make sure to update and post those on the YahooGroup. At the beginning of the summer, contacts were hard to get but we cleared many contact

issues up at the Fall Business Meeting which was held at Marywood University.

If anyone has any questions about the YahooGroup or anything else pertaining to contact information, feel free to e-mail me at fairchildm@etown.edu.

One other main duty of mine is to take minutes at all of our executive board meetings as well as the business meetings. I type up those minutes and distribute them through the YahooGroup or in paper form to assure communication between members of our region.

I am looking forward to Ocean City and hope to see you all there! Thanks so much for all your hard work this year.

~Maryellen Fairchild



A Message from our Student Affairs Advisor

Joke Bradt, Ph-D, MT-BC, LCAT

It was very exciting to see many schools attend the Fall MAR and MARAMTS meeting in Scranton. It is so important to have all your voices heard and have your vote count in MARAMTS related matters. As I wrote before, your commitment, enthusiasm, and professionalism make what MARAMTS is today: a wonderful, superb student organization that does wonderful, superb things for their student members and the community at large. So please, stay actively involved throughout the year! If your school reps were unable to attend the meeting, make sure to get in touch with the MARAMTS EB so that they can update you and let you know how you can get involved.

I just returned from another great Passages. This year Passages was held at Montclair State University (*Thank you, MSU, for hosting this event!*). Thank you to Mechelle Chestnut and Jenny Hoi Yan Fu for organizing this event and thank you to Rebecca Hasselbrook, Gregory Perkins, Paula Unsal, and other members of the local committee for all your assistance in making this a successful event! The presentations were again awesome. I encouraged all presenters

to submit a presentation proposal for the MAR Regional Conference. The conference committee always greatly appreciates presentations from students and new professionals: you bring new, innovative ideas and new energy to our Region. Our region needs *you* to stay as strong as we currently are. So please, don't be afraid to submit a presentation proposal for the conference. You can ask your advisor for help/feedback. Know that I am also available to you for help with preparation of proposals!

Next year's Passages will be at Shenandoah University (*Yeab, Shenandoah!!*). Make sure to send in proposals when the call for papers comes out (sometime in March). Presenting at Passages is a great *first* step in the world of presenting!

For those of you who haven't applied yet for the Sophomore, the Junior, or the Graduate scholarships, apply now (deadline: Nov 21st)! It saves you money (membership to AMTA and registration for the MAR conference) and who doesn't want a scholarship listed on their resume?

Also, make sure your school applies for the Club Awards (\$250) (deadline:

Dec 15th).

If you are interning in 2007, make sure to apply now for the Jenny Shinn Scholarship (\$500 each for the three winners and \$100 for the 3 runners-up!). Those too will look impressive on your resume! To clarify eligibility criteria for the Jenny Shinn:

- If you have already begun your internship in 2006 but will be interning in 2007: you can apply!
- If you will begin your internship in the Fall of 2007: you can still apply for this round of Jenny Shinn Awards.

If you will be interning in 2007 but you have not been accepted yet by an internship site: you can apply!

Your school advisor has the application packets for all the scholarships. Go to his/her office right away and get started! They are also available at <http://www.mar-amta.org>.

I wish you all a wonderful year and lots of good luck with all your endeavors. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. My cyberspace door is always open at jbradt@temple.edu.

Slippery Rock Shares Fall Experience

Slippery Rock University's Music Therapy Club is viewing a new horizon in the history of their club. We have eleven new students and there are now a total of twenty-five active club members. Everyone is thrilled and determined to make the club itself more fun and active on campus and the community. We have been desperately trying to build our funds and raise money for this year's conference. Some of the fundraising events we have done and will be doing include bake sales and 50/50 raffles at concerts, designing Music Dept. t-shirts, and also selling gourmet hot chocolate during the holiday season. The one fundraising activity which we're focusing on greatly is

our Music Therapy Benefit Concert. The club members will perform and talk about different aspects of Music Therapy and our program here at Slippery Rock. The club has already had several fun activities and is looking forward for those to come. So far this semester we have had weekly drum circles every week after performance hour which have been facilitated by the Percussion Professor here at Slippery Rock. The club also gets together for movie nights. The movies we watch are usually relating to music or the populations that a music therapist might work with. The excitement doesn't stop there! We are participating in Advocacy,

Service Projects, and Programs. We are in the process of Adopting-a-Highway, and just recently had a drum circle setup at the Special Olympics here on campus. In December we are planning on Christmas Caroling at local Nursing Homes and Orphanages in Pittsburgh as well as the nearby Grove City Outlets shopping center. For the spring we have been working to help the local Girl Scouts obtain their Music Badge and look forward to the experience. . We look forward to seeing everyone at Conference in Ocean City, MD! Have a Great Year!

MAR Passages Fall 2006

MAR Passages went off without a hitch this year and has been documented through wonderful pictures! The executive board thought it would be fun to share those photos with everyone so hope you enjoy~



Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Music Therapy Students



Thank you so much for all your support!

Here is the contact information for your executive board. Feel free to contact any member with anything questions etc.

Thanks!

President: Gretchen Chardos

chardosg@duq.edu

Vice President: Kevin Hahn

hahnk@etown.edu

Secretary: Maryellen Fairchild

fairchildm@etown.edu

Treasurer: Tiffany Carr

the_tc_connection@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian: Jillian Tolman

beaneriu@yahoo.com

Student Affairs Advisor: Joke Bradt

jbradt@temple.edu

MAR 2007 Conference– Ocean City, MD!

Where: Ocean City, MD

When: March 29-31, 2007

Why: To grow and learn as students and young professionals

And of course, have tons of fun!



- As an extra motivator, your own executive board members will be presenting at conference and would love your support as they will probably be nervous but full of good things to say! If you want to learn how to present, this will be the session for you.
- Also, there are plenty of interesting sessions to expand your knowledge of music therapy.

Hope to see you there~!!